



# European Washington File

## Public Affairs Section

### Embassy of the United States, Stockholm, Sweden

Monday, January 12, 2004

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## **Transcript: Decisions on Trial of Saddam Hussein Up to Iraqis, Powell Says**

*(Secretary also discusses Afghanistan, Pakistan in CBS interview)*

Secretary of State Colin Powell said it is up to the Iraqi people how they put their captured former leader Saddam Hussein on trial, and he added that "the credibility of the new Iraqi government will be measured by how they handle this horrible dictator."

Interviewed January 9 on CBS Radio, Powell said the Iraqi Governing Council is preparing judicial proceedings against Saddam Hussein and bringing in experts to help them develop charges. International observers will participate in the trial, Powell said.

Asked about the extent of public support in Iraq and Afghanistan for U.S. efforts to rid those countries of "tyrannical regimes," Powell noted that in Afghanistan two million refugees have returned. As for Iraq, he said, "I think most Iraqis ... look forward to working with us to put in place a democratic system of government."

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

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## **Text: High-Ranking Ba'athists Renounce Party Ties, U.S. Military Says**

*(Central Command says denunciation accompanied weapons surrender)*

High-ranking members of Iraq's Ba'athist Party renounced their political affiliation and turned in numerous weapons at a meeting in northwestern Iraq January 12, according to the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

While not giving the names, party titles or numbers of the Iraqis involved, the CENTCOM press release specified the kind and quantity of weapons surrendered, and said the meeting took place in Tallafar, northwestern Iraq. The release said the weapons would be turned over to the Iraqi police.

The Ba'ath Party was a chief instrument of Saddam Hussein's 30-plus years of rule in Iraq.

Following is the text of the CENTCOM release:

(begin text)

HEADQUARTERS U.S. CENTRAL  
COMMAND  
MacDill Air Force Base, Florida

January 12, 2004

FORMER BA'ATH PARTY MEMBERS  
DENOUNCE AFFILIATION, TURN IN  
WEAPONS

MOSUL, Iraq -- High-ranking members of the Ba'ath Party renounced party affiliation today at a meeting in Tallafar in northwestern Iraq while fellow Iraqis and leaders from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) witnessed.

In addition to renouncing their Ba'ath Party affiliation, the officials turned in weapons to Col. Michael Linnington, commander, 187th Infantry Regiment, and Lt. Col. Christopher Pease, commander, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, who handed the weapons over to local police.

More than 120 AK-47s and three machine guns were handed in. That brings the total number of weapons collected by 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) to 719 AK-47s, four rocket-propelled grenades (RPGs), 30 RPG rounds, 15 hand grenades, two mortars and more than 1,000 rounds of ammunition.

All of the weapons collected will be given over to Iraqi police and the Iraqi military for use in maintaining security, said the Tallafar chief of police.

"These weapons will be used for the future security force of this country," Linnington said. "The goal is Iraq for Iraqis."

The 101st continues to work with the citizens and leaders of Iraq to make it a safe, prosperous, and democratic nation.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Transcript: 2004 a Time to Build on Alliances, Powell Says**

*(Secretary outlines foreign policy prospects in January 8 interview)*

Now that the Afghanistan and Iraqi wars are over and those countries are in a rebuilding phase, the United States has a chance to use its partnerships and alliances to greater effect to deal with other regional problems, Secretary of State Colin Powell said in a January 8 interview at the State Department with U.S. News & World Report magazine.

President Bush believes that military force should be used only after diplomatic efforts to solve problems have failed, Powell said. "The President's preference, always has been to solve problems peacefully and diplomatically," Powell said, adding that Bush took "the Iraq problem to the U.N. in the hope that it could be solved without a war.

"It couldn't be, so we had a war, and that war's over. But he's continuing to pursue diplomatic solutions with respect to North Korea, Iran, Libya," and Syria, Powell pointed out.

Asked about efforts by the State Department to counter anti-Americanism around the world, Powell said "No amount of public diplomacy could compensate for the fact that people were not seeing a solution emerge in the Middle East, and there were strong views in the Muslim World, and strong views throughout Europe, public views, not necessarily the views of governments, but public views, that we should not go to war in Iraq.

"Well, we did, and that's behind us. And as Iraq improves, as the people, you know, get their

sovereignty back, I think the anti-American attitude associated with that will change. And if there was one thing I could do to improve the overall situation, it would be to get something moving on the Middle East peace process, the roadmap," Powell said.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

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### **Transcript: U.S. Seeks Diplomatic Solution for North Korea, Powell Says**

*(Discusses North Korea, Iraq in NHK TV Japan interview Jan. 9)*

The United States seeks a diplomatic solution, not a military one, to deal with North Korea's nuclear activities, Secretary of State Colin Powell said in an interview with Aiko Doden of NHK TV Japan January 9.

"President Bush has made it clear that he wants to find a political, diplomatic solution to this challenge, and I think we can," Powell said.

"If we were interested in the military option, we wouldn't have gotten the six-party talks [with North Korea, South Korea, China, Russia, Japan, and the United States] organized," he continued. "The United States does not seek war. We are not looking for enemies. We are seeking to solve problems -- problems of the kind presented by North Korea's nuclear weapons programs."

Powell said he is "reasonably confident" another round of six-party talks will take place soon, but said, "[W]e want to make sure that the next formal round of talks show real progress and are not just another opportunity to exchange well-known views."

During the interview, Powell also thanked Japan for its decision to send ground troops to Iraq.

"We have an important task in front of us in Iraq to help the people of Iraq to a better life, to create a democracy, and they need help from the outside world. Sometimes the help is tangible in the form of

money and also tangible in the form of peacekeepers," he said.

Powell said the decision to send troops "shows Japan's maturity and Japan's willingness to exercise its responsibilities as a very important nation, not only in Asia, but an important [one] on the world stage."

The Secretary said "the world has become safer" because of the dismantling of Saddam Hussein's regime, but said the international community must continue to fight terrorism.

"The world is safer because there is no longer a Saddam Hussein who fills mass graves with innocent people, who terrorizes his own people, who is developing weapons of mass destruction," he said. "There are still difficult challenges ahead, but we can see how it influenced Libyan behavior, influenced Iranian behavior, and we have to stay the course."

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

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### **Transcript: Powell Interviewed by Polish TV on Visas, Entry Procedures**

*(Jan. 9: Interviewed in Washington by Thomas Lis of TVN24)*

In an interview for Polish television January 9, Secretary of State Colin Powell discussed new immigration procedures requiring most foreign visitors traveling to the United States on visas to have two fingers scanned by an inkless device and a digital photograph taken upon entry.

Powell said the procedures are in place "not to harass people or to humiliate anyone, but to help us protect our homeland." Poland has not yet met the standards for participation in the Visa Waiver Program, under which certain countries are exempt from these new entry procedures, he said.

He added that the United States is "doing everything we can to reduce the lines at our consular offices where visa applications are accepted and to turn the

visa application back as quickly as possible so people are not kept waiting too long as to whether or not their visa will be approved or not."

Asked about the possibility of relocating some U.S. military bases to Poland, Powell said Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld has made no decisions yet. "We are looking at our overall base structure and we are talking to all of our friends in NATO and in other nations, and it's a worldwide effort, and no specific decisions yet have been made about a particular base or a particular facility in Poland or in the other nations of NATO."

Following is a transcript of the interview, which took place in Washington:

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesman  
January 9, 2004

Interview  
SECRETARY OF STATE COLIN L. POWELL  
BY THOMAS LIS OF TVN24 POLAND

January 9, 2004  
Washington, D.C.  
(10:33 a.m. EST)

MR. LIS: Mr. Secretary, now in the U.S. you fingerprint and photograph people from many countries, among them from Poland, but actually not from all countries. Don't you think that's it's humiliating for us to be treated in that way, especially taking under consideration that Poland takes part in anti-terrorist coalition and our troops are fighting in Iraq?

SECRETARY POWELL: There is no intention to humiliate Poles. We consider Poland to be one of our closest friends and we appreciate what Polish troops are doing in Iraq, and we regret the loss of life that has occurred and we are very appreciate of that effort.

The need to fingerprint people and to photograph people coming into our country is a requirement that we put in place not to harass people or to humiliate anyone, but to help us protect our

homeland. There are a group of countries that currently enjoy privileges under something called the Visa Waiver Program, where they don't require visas. But, ultimately, their passports will have to have biometric identifiers, which will pretty much serve the same purpose.

The nature of the Visa Waiver Program is such that we cannot, at the moment, offer that program to Poles. But I hope Poles will understand that it is a fairly simple --

MR. LIS: Why not?

SECRETARY POWELL: There are a variety of standards that have to be met, and those standards are not met at the moment.

But I hope that Poles will see that it is a fairly simple procedure, it is not a humiliating procedure; it's two fingerprints and a photograph and it's done. It takes a few seconds time. And it's for the purpose not only of protecting our homeland, but protecting international travelers who are using the airways so we know who is traveling, who is coming into the country, who has left the country.

And that's the sole purpose. Not to humiliate anyone, especially our Polish friends.

MR. LIS: And, Mr. Secretary, you mentioned visas. The problem is we wait in long lines for those visas, we pay a lot, actually more and more, and actually we don't even have any guarantees that we will get this visa. And at the same time, President Bush says, you are saying, "Poles, you are great friends of ours."

I mean, is it fair to treat your friends like that?

SECRETARY POWELL: I don't think we're treating our Polish friends any differently than friends elsewhere in the world. We require a fee to apply for a visa because it does require an amount of effort, and the way in which the whole program is funded is through the fees that we charge for the visa application. And if there was no fee charged, then everybody would apply just to take a chance at getting a visa, and we couldn't sustain the program. So it is necessary to charge a fee for the visa application.

We are doing everything we can to make it easier to apply for a visa, but as a result of 9/11 our Congress directed us, and it was necessary for us, to put in additional elements to our visa application system in order to have a good understanding of who is coming into our country.

I hope that over time, as these procedures become better known and as we make them easier, as our data systems catch up with what we're trying to do, people will not find it that difficult a process or that inconvenient a process to go through.

MR. LIS: Could the system of granting visas be changed, especially for your close allies from Poland?

SECRETARY POWELL: Well, as I say, there are some standards that have to be met, and at the moment expanding the Visa Waiver Program to additional countries is not something that I believe would be possible. In fact, here in the United States, there are many who are suggesting that countries currently in the Visa Waiver Program should be taken out or there should be no Visa Waiver Program. But that would so increase the volume of visas that we wouldn't be able to sustain that right now.

So we are reviewing all of these matters with respect to homeland security. And I know that this is a very sensitive issue in Poland because of the nature of your questions. But I just hope that our Polish friends would recognize what we're trying to do to protect them, to protect our homeland, to make travel safe, and to make sure terrorists are denied the opportunity.

I'm not expecting a Polish citizen to be a terrorist, but it's necessary for us to have these universal procedures with respect to countries that are not in the Visa Waiver Program in order to know who is coming into the country. And it is a very simple procedure. It doesn't take long with respect to the fingerprinting. And we're doing everything we can to reduce the lines at our consular offices where visa applications are accepted and to turn the visa application back as quickly as possible so people are not kept waiting too long as to whether or not their visa will be approved or not.



MR. LIS: Mr. Secretary, Poland just started to negotiations with Washington on moving some American bases, military bases, on our territory. Do you have any idea when actually that might happen? I mean, are we talking two years, five years?

SECRETARY POWELL: Oh, I don't think [Defense] Secretary Rumsfeld has made any decisions, nor has he provided any recommendations to the President yet. We are looking at our overall base structure and we are talking to all of our friends in NATO and in other nations, and it's a worldwide effort, and no specific decisions yet have been made about a particular base or a particular facility in Poland or in the other nations of NATO. But Mr. Rumsfeld is hard at work on this.

(end transcript)

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### **Excerpt: U.S. Still Concerned over Alleged Russian Equipment Sales to Iraq**

*(U.S. continues to raise issue with Russia, Ereli says)*

State Department spokesman Adam Ereli said the United States continues to have an "ongoing discussion" with Russia over alleged Russian sales of proscribed military equipment to Iraq.

Ereli, who answered a reporter's question during the regular State Department briefing January 12, noted that this is "not a new story." Last March the Bush administration said it "had information that sensitive Russian-made military equipment had been sold to Iraq before the war and posed a threat to U.S. forces there. We told the Russians we took the matter very seriously and we raised the issue with the government numerous times at senior levels. We continue to look into this case."

The United States wants "to ensure that measures are in place so that this kind of proliferation doesn't happen again," he said.

"I would say that we are receiving cooperation and we continue to pursue the case," Ereli added.

Following is an excerpt from the State Department briefing:

(begin excerpt)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING  
MONDAY, JANUARY 12, 2004

(ON THE RECORD UNLESS OTHERWISE NOTED)

1:05 p.m. EST

MR. ERELI: Good afternoon, everyone. Welcome to our briefing today. I don't have any announcements so let's proceed to your questions.

[...]

QUESTION: Any other conversations by the Secretary over the weekend, while you're on that subject?

MR. ERELI: The only thing I have to share with you is the Secretary General, and he spoke to [Russian Foreign Minister Igor] Ivanov a little while ago today.

QUESTION: From here or from (inaudible)?

MR. ERELI: From the -- on his trip.

QUESTION: Was there a specific topic that they were to discuss, or just --

MR. ERELI: I don't have the details.

QUESTION: While you're there, can I just dispense with something here? I, frankly, didn't see the report, but apparently there have been reports of Russian help, military help, for Iraq. Is that something that crossed your radar?

MR. ERELI: Yeah, I'd say that's not a new story.

QUESTION: No, I didn't think so. Not jamming now, which is not a new story, but actual tangible equipment.

MR. ERELI: Right. What I have on that is --

QUESTION: Yeah.

MR. ERELI: What I have on that is that basically where we are today is where we were when we last spoke about this publicly in March of last year, specifically that we had information that sensitive Russian-made military equipment had been sold to Iraq before the war and posed a threat to U.S. forces there. We told the Russians we took the matter very seriously and we raised the issue with the government numerous times at senior levels. We continue to look into this case. We gave Russia a lot of data to establish the veracity of our contentions and we will continue our dialogue with Russia on this, this issue, and would note that cooperation in other areas has continued.

QUESTION: That's a (inaudible) description of the situation, but I have one question, at least. Was this detected, and did you speak to the Russians about it, before the war, or once the war had begun, do you happen to know?

MR. ERELI: I'll have to check on that.

QUESTION: Because it was prewar, right?

MR. ERELI: When we first raised it with the -- when we first raised it.

QUESTION: Okay.

QUESTION: Did the Russians ever give you a credible answer as to how this equipment that you believe got there, got there?

MR. ERELI: I think this is a subject of ongoing discussion. There are a variety of explanations. Our concern, I think, is to ensure that measures are in place so that this kind of proliferation doesn't happen again.

QUESTION: So then you intend to let it drop -- the United States?

MR. ERELI: No, I didn't say that.

QUESTION: It sounds like this is not a dead issue, like the Russians have said that it is. You say we continue to look into this case. Does that mean that you're continually providing the Russians with information, or how are you continuing to look into this (inaudible)?

MR. ERELI: We continue to have discussions with the Russians to determine whether it violated any U.S. laws -- the proliferation.

QUESTION: U.S. laws or UN sanctions?

MR. ERELI: U.S. laws and UN sanctions.

QUESTION: The last time I remember us talking about this, which was, you know, whatever -- nine months ago -- it seemed like the Russians were not providing you with very much in terms of their own investigation and, sort of, a candid discussion of what may have happened. Are you satisfied with the efforts that they've taken over these nine months to come up with the answer as to how this stuff got there?

MR. ERELI: I would say that we are receiving cooperation and we continue to pursue the case. I would put it that way.

QUESTION: Would you call it good cooperation?

MR. ERELI: I wouldn't -- I don't have any reason to say yes or no on that. I mean, I think I would just characterize it as cooperation.

(end excerpt)

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**Text: U.S., China Intensify Nuclear Nonproliferation Cooperation***(Department of Energy Jan. 12 press release)*

The Department of Energy issued a press release January 12 announcing that the U.S. Secretary of Energy and the Chairman of China's Atomic Energy Authority had that day signed a Statement of Intent that establishes a process for cooperating with each other and for collaborating with the International Atomic Energy Agency on a range of nuclear nonproliferation and security activities.

These activities, the release continues, include efforts to strengthen export controls, international nuclear safeguards, physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, nuclear emergency management, and radioactive source security by setting up information exchanges and training programs.

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

January 12, 2004

Secretary Abraham and Chairman of China Atomic Energy Authority Agree to Increase Cooperation in Non-proliferation and Security

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Zhang Huazhu, Chairman of the China Atomic Energy Authority (CAEA) affirmed their commitment today to recent understandings reached by the two countries to increase cooperation on nuclear nonproliferation, security and counter-terrorism.

The Statement of Intent (SOI), signed on January 12 in Beijing, between the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and the CAEA, establishes a process for cooperation with each other and for collaborating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on a range of nuclear nonproliferation and security activities. These activities include efforts to strengthen export controls, international nuclear safeguards, physical protection of nuclear materials and facilities, nuclear emergency management, and radioactive source security by setting up information exchanges and training programs.

"The Statement of Intent for cooperation between the People's Republic of China Atomic Energy Agency and the United States Department of Energy is an important step toward accelerating the global effort to reduce the threat posed by the proliferation weapons of mass destruction," said Secretary Abraham. The SOI builds upon ongoing cooperation between the DOE and the CAEA to support international safeguards and nuclear security programs of the IAEA and reflects the commitment of both the U.S. and Chinese governments to promote strengthened cooperation and partnership in preventing nuclear proliferation and terrorism.

The signing of the agreement follows recent steps taken by China to strengthen its national system of nonproliferation export controls, as outlined in its "white paper" released by China's State Council on December 3, 2003.

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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**Text: Involvement in Corruption Will Bar Immigration to U.S., Bush Declares***(Entry suspended for those linked to corruption in the public arena)*

Would-be visitors or immigrants to the United States will be barred from entry to the country if they have been linked to corruption, according to a presidential proclamation issued by the White House January 12. The document refers specifically to "corruption in the performance of public functions where that corruption has serious adverse effects on international activity of U.S. businesses, U.S. foreign assistance goals, the security of the United States against transnational crime and terrorism, or the stability of democratic institutions and nations."

The entry suspension is targeted specifically at public officials, former public officials, and those who have attempted to bribe public officials.

The proclamation is in keeping with previously stated administration goals to emphasize good governance and the prevention of corruption as essential ingredients to economic development. Corruption has been cited by the governments of the Group-of-Eight industrial nations and the World Bank as a threat to public trust, democracy and stability.

U.S. visa policy has been that corruption in itself is not grounds for denial or revocation of a visa.

Following is the text of the presidential proclamation.

(begin text)

THE WHITE HOUSE  
Office of the Press Secretary  
(Monterrey, Mexico)  
January 12, 2004

TO SUSPEND ENTRY AS IMMIGRANTS OR  
NONIMMIGRANTS OF PERSONS ENGAGED  
IN OR BENEFITING FROM CORRUPTION

BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED  
STATES OF AMERICA

A PROCLAMATION

In light of the importance of legitimate and transparent public institutions to world stability, peace, and development, and the serious negative effects that corruption of public institutions has on the United States efforts to promote security and to strengthen democratic institutions and free market systems, and in light of the importance to the United States and the international community of fighting corruption, as evidenced by the Third Global Forum on Fighting Corruption and Safeguarding Integrity and other intergovernmental efforts, I have determined that it is in the interests of the United States to take action to restrict the international travel and to suspend the entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of certain persons who have committed, participated in, or are beneficiaries of corruption in the performance of public functions where that corruption has serious adverse effects on

international activity of U.S. businesses, U.S. foreign assistance goals, the security of the United States against transnational crime and terrorism, or the stability of democratic institutions and nations.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, GEORGE W. BUSH, President of the United States of America, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the laws of the United States, including section 212(f) of the Immigration and Nationality Act of 1952, 8 U.S.C. 1182(f), and section 301 of title 3, United States Code, hereby find that the unrestricted immigrant and nonimmigrant entry into the United States of persons described in section 1 of this proclamation would, except as provided in sections 2 and 3 of this proclamation, be detrimental to the interests of the United States.

I therefore hereby proclaim that:

Section 1. The entry into the United States, as immigrants or nonimmigrants, of the following persons is hereby suspended:

(a) Public officials or former public officials whose solicitation or acceptance of any article of monetary value, or other benefit, in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of their public functions has or had serious adverse effects on the national interests of the United States.

(b) Persons whose provision of or offer to provide any article of monetary value or other benefit to any public official in exchange for any act or omission in the performance of such official's public functions has or had serious adverse effects on the national interests of the United States.

(c) Public officials or former public officials whose misappropriation of public funds or interference with the judicial, electoral, or other public processes has or had serious adverse effects on the national interests of the United States.

(d) The spouses, children, and dependent household members of persons described in paragraphs (a), (b), and (c) above, who are beneficiaries of any articles of monetary value or other benefits obtained by such persons.

Sec. 2. Section 1 of this proclamation shall not apply with respect to any person otherwise covered by section 1 where entry of the person into the United States would not be contrary to the interests of the United States.

Sec. 3. Persons covered by sections 1 and 2 of this proclamation shall be identified by the Secretary of State or the Secretary's designee, in his or her sole discretion, pursuant to such standards and procedures as the Secretary may establish.

Sec. 4. For purposes of this proclamation, "serious adverse effects on the national interests of the United States" means serious adverse effects on the international economic activity of U.S. businesses, U.S. foreign assistance goals, the security of the United States against transnational crime and terrorism, or the stability of democratic institutions and nations.

Sec. 5. Nothing in this proclamation shall be construed to derogate from United States Government obligations under applicable international agreements.

Sec. 6. The Secretary of State shall have responsibility for implementing this proclamation pursuant to such procedures as the Secretary may, in the Secretary's discretion, establish.

Sec. 7. This proclamation is effective immediately.

Sec. 8. This proclamation is not intended to, and does not, create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or in equity by any party, against the United States, its departments, agencies, or other entities, its officers or employees, or any other person.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand this twelfth day of January, in the year of our Lord two thousand four, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-eighth.

GEORGE W. BUSH

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State.  
Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: U.S. Trade Representative Calls for Energizing Global Trade Talks**

*(In letter to trade ministers, Zoellick urges "common sense" approach)*

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Zoellick is calling on member countries of the World Trade Organization (WTO) to re-invigorate the WTO trade talks, which collapsed in September at the ministerial meeting in Cancun, Mexico.

In a letter sent to more than 140 WTO trade ministers Zoellick said the United States "does not want 2004 to be a lost year" for the WTO talks, known as the Doha Development Agenda, and urged a "common sense" approach to unresolved trade issues, according to a news release published January 12 by the USTR's office.

In addition to calling for the elimination of agricultural export subsidies, Zoellick urged substantial cuts in domestic farm supports and reiterated the Bush administration position that both developed and developing countries should open their markets to U.S. farm products.

On manufactured goods, Zoellick urged pursuit of an ambitious but flexible tariff-cutting formula that would suit all WTO members, as well as zero-tariff initiatives for specific sectors.

The U.S. trade representative called for greater progress on services negotiations and suggested that issues related to investment and competition policy be dropped from the agenda for the time being.

He called on WTO countries to develop frameworks for negotiation by mid-2004 and for ministers to meet in Hong Kong before the end of the year.

Following is the text of the USTR news release:

(begin text)

Office of the United States Trade Representative  
www.ustr.gov  
January 12, 2004

### A Common-Sense Approach to Advance the Doha Development Agenda

The U.S. does not want 2004 to be a lost year for the Doha Development Agenda of World Trade Organization (WTO) negotiations. U.S. Trade Representative Robert B. Zoellick has written to the WTO Ministers responsible for trade (over 140) to suggest a "common sense" approach to advancing negotiations this year.

Zoellick's letter offers some observations and suggestions and proposes a WTO Ministerial meeting before the end of this year in Hong Kong. Zoellick plans a round-the-world tour of key capitals in February to meet with Ministers, listen to ideas, and work for progress.

The letter suggests that WTO members should focus on the basics, especially the core market access topics of agriculture, goods and services.

**Agriculture:** The letter suggests that WTO Members agree to eliminate agricultural export subsidies by a date certain. In addition, Members should agree to substantially decrease and harmonize levels of trade-distorting domestic support, and seek a substantial increase in real market access opportunities both in developed and major developing economies. The letter notes that the U.S. stands by its 2002 proposal to set a goal of total elimination of trade-distorting subsidies and barriers to market access. The letter also suggests that domestic supports, export subsidies, and tariffs for cotton (including cotton textiles) be cut substantially as part of a comprehensive agreement.

**Goods:** The letter suggests Members pursue an ambitious tariff-cutting formula for manufactured goods that includes sufficient flexibility so that the methodology will work for all economies. In addition to the tariff-cutting formula, sectoral zero-tariff initiatives should be an integral part of the negotiations, and the letter suggests a "critical mass" approach be used to define participation in sectoral initiatives. The letter also notes that there appears

to be consensus to tackle non-tariff trade barriers in the Doha negotiations.

**Services:** The letter suggests that Ministers press for meaningful services offers from a majority of WTO members, as well as technical assistance to help developing countries present offers.

With regard to the "Singapore Issues", the letter suggests proceeding with negotiations on trade facilitation, further exploring interest in negotiations on transparency in government procurement, and dropping -- or developing a plan of further study for -- the issues of competition and investment.

The letter suggests that WTO Members appoint a new chair of the WTO General Council from a developing country, even though the rotating Chair for this year would normally be chosen from a developed nation. To press discussions forward, additional meetings of Geneva- and capital-based senior officials would seek to develop frameworks for negotiations by mid-year, with a full WTO Ministerial before the end of this year. Hong Kong has already offered to host the next WTO Ministerial meeting.

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: EPA'S Leavitt Calls on Power Companies to Invest in Clean Air**

*(Plant emissions violate ozone standards in some U.S. counties)*

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Mike Leavitt says hundreds of counties across the nation were unable to meet new health-based ozone standards because of power plant emissions, and called on the industry to begin investing now in emissions reduction efforts.

Addressing the board of directors of the Edison Electric Institute -- a trade association whose members generate almost 70 percent of the nation's

electricity -- Leavitt said EPA has sent letters to the governors of 31 states affirming that more than 530 counties were unable to meet the new ozone standards, according to a January 9 press release.

"Many of those counties have unhealthy air through no fault of their own," Leavitt said. "It's because they live downwind from one or more coal-burning power plants."

In December 2003, EPA proposed a suite of integrated air actions -- as part of the Interstate Air Quality Rule -- to significantly reduce power plant emissions of sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and mercury. The proposed rule, slated to take effect in 2005, would use a cap-and-trade program to cut emissions of sulfur dioxide -- a leading cause of soot or particulate matter -- by 70 percent from today's levels by 2015; and to cut emissions of nitrogen oxides -- a leading contributor to ground-level ozone -- by 65 percent.

The cap-and-trade mechanism would set industry caps on emissions and then allow power plant operators to buy or sell emissions credits. EPA has also proposed using this strategy to cut mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 70 percent.

Leavitt told the power company officials that the market-oriented cap-and-trade system allows power plant operators to find the best, fastest and most efficient ways to make pollutant reductions to create cleaner and more healthful air.

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Headquarters Press Release  
Washington, DC  
January 9, 2004

#### EPA Administrator Tells Power Companies to Invest In Clean Air

"It's time to start cleaning up." EPA Administrator Mike Leavitt, addressing a Board of Directors meeting of the Edison Electric Institute, told the nation's power company officials their industry must

begin investing now to reduce emissions of sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), nitrogen oxides (NO<sub>x</sub>) and mercury from power plants.

Leavitt noted that EPA last month sent letters to the governors of 31 states affirming that more than 530 counties were unable to meet new health-based ozone standards. "Many of those counties have unhealthy air through no fault of their own," he said, "It's because they live downwind from one or more coal burning power plants."

In December 2003, EPA proposed a suite of integrated air actions to significantly reduce current levels of power plant emissions. The Interstate Air Quality proposal would utilize a cap and trade program based on EPA's highly successful Acid Rain Program to cut emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> by 70 percent and NO<sub>x</sub> by approximately 65 percent from today's levels. The Agency's first ever proposed rule to regulate mercury emissions would cut by 70 percent the estimated 48 tons of mercury emitted each year by coal-burning power plants in the United States.

"I intend to be very aggressive in keeping these proposals on a tight, fast track. In return, I ask you to be equally aggressive in committing to cleaning up the air America breathes," said Administrator Leavitt.

"These rules constitute a move away from a command-and-control style regulation, adopting a market-oriented cap and trade system where the operators of the power plants find the best ways, the fastest ways, and the most efficient ways to make the reductions," Leavitt added. "It provides incentives to do more than required and serious market-imposed sanctions for those who do less."

SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> are key contributors to fine particles (PM<sub>2.5</sub>) and ground-level ozone. Fine particles can pose serious health risks, especially for people with heart or lung disease (including asthma) and older adults and children. Ground-level ozone can irritate the respiratory system, aggravate asthma, reduce lung capacity and increase people's susceptibility to respiratory illnesses like pneumonia and bronchitis. Mercury is a toxic, persistent pollutant that Americans are exposed to primarily through eating mercury-contaminated fish.



The Edison Electric Institute is a trade association whose members generate almost 70 percent of the electricity produced by U.S. electric utilities.

For more information on Leavitt's speech, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/adminweb/leavitt/speeches.htm>

Interstate Air Quality Rule, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/interstateairquality/>

And mercury, go to: <http://www.epa.gov/mercury/>

(end text)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: Abraham Lists Benefits of Joint U.S.-Japan Approach on Energy Security**

*(January 9 remarks to Japanese business federation Keidanren)*

U.S. Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, in Japan for the first stop of a four-nation trip through the Asia-Pacific region, called for increased cooperation between the United States and Japan on challenges arising from growing energy demand and energy security requirements.

During an address to the national business federation Keidanren in Tokyo January 9, Abraham praised the "generous and welcoming spirit of the Japanese people" and noted the "long and productive friendship" between the two nations, based on "[c]ommon values, common ideals, common responsibilities...and a common future together."

The terrorist acts of September 11, 2001 vividly highlighted the importance and closeness of the ties between the United States and Japan, Abraham said. He expressed appreciation for Japan's assistance in identifying and disrupting terrorist cells, aid to U.S. and coalition forces, and support for the economic

and political reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan and Iraq.

According to the secretary, the future of the U.S.-Japanese alliance will be defined in large part by how the two nations handle looming economic and security issues connected to energy.

"If you think about it," he said, "there are probably no two countries in the world that share greater energy challenges than the United States and Japan." Highlighting the similarities between the two countries' needs, Abraham called for several steps to increase cooperation in addressing such challenges that include the following:

-- Both nations should pursue a wide spectrum of fuel sources, including coal, oil, gas, hydropower and other renewables, and nuclear energy, to reduce the risk of disruptions of supply. Abraham commended Japan's success in reducing its dependence on petroleum as a source of energy and said that the United States should follow suit.

-- Development of diverse sources of supply should be encouraged to create more stable energy markets. Abraham cited U.S. efforts to reach out to promote exploration and development all over the globe, and expressed optimism about prospects in several regions.

--The United States and Japan should work to increase the safety, reliability, efficiency, and affordability of nuclear power so that it remains an internationally acceptable form of energy. The two countries should emphasize the critical value of nuclear power in dealing with global issues of climate change, environment, and economic security. Abraham called for continued joint research and development on the next generation of nuclear reactors, and said that he expected significant technological breakthroughs soon.

--Imagination and vision should be encouraged to promote revolutionary new energy technologies. The United States and Japan should vigorously pursue research on existing technologies like hydrogen fuel cells and expand research on fusion to move beyond petroleum dependency. Abraham said that the United States had made a commitment to join the international fusion energy experiment



known as ITER and would strongly support building the site for the experiment in Japan.

**Full text is available at**

**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

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**Text: U.S., Japan to Work Together on Fuel Cell, Hydrogen Research**

*(Department of Energy January 9 press release)*

U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and Japan's Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry signed a joint statement of intent January 9 to conduct research and development in fuel cell and hydrogen technologies, according to a press release issued by the Department of Energy the same day.

"International cooperation is key to achieving the hydrogen and fuel cell program goals outlined by President Bush in his last State of the Union address," Abraham said.

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

January 9, 2004

U.S./Japan to Work Together on Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Research  
Supports President Bush's Hydrogen Initiative, International Energy Partnerships

TOKYO, JAPAN - Spencer Abraham, U.S. Secretary of Energy, and Goji Sakamoto, Senior Vice Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry of Japan today signed a joint statement of intent to pursue pre-competitive research and development in the field of fuel cell and hydrogen technologies.

"The United States and Japan both recognize the contribution research and development can make to the development of a hydrogen economy and to cost-effective technologies to meet future global energy needs," Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said. "International cooperation is key to

achieving the hydrogen and fuel cell program goals outlined by President Bush in his last State of the Union address."

Following the signature of a Joint Statement, the two countries intend to bring together appropriate officials and technical experts to participate in workshops and seminars, as well as exchange experts and share information on current policies, technological programs and developments in the area of fuel cells and hydrogen production, storage, and transport technologies.

The United States and Japan are members of the International Partnership for the Hydrogen Economy (IPHE). On November 20, 2003 in Washington, DC, Secretary Abraham, joined by Ministers representing 14 nations and the European Commission, signed an agreement formally establishing the IPHE. Secretary Abraham called for international hydrogen collaboration in his speech to the International Energy Agency Ministerial Meeting last April in Paris, France. The International Partnership supports the deployment of hydrogen energy technologies, establishing collaborative efforts in hydrogen production, storage, transport, and end-use technologies; common codes and standards for hydrogen fuel utilization; and the sharing of information necessary to develop hydrogen fueling infrastructure.

The use of hydrogen as an energy carrier offers several important advantages relative to existing systems. Hydrogen can be derived from multiple feedstocks, which fosters fuel versatility. End-use technologies that employ hydrogen, such as fuel cells, are more efficient and can be used safely while improving the environment and public health.

(end text)

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Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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**Text: U.S., China Take Another Step in Promoting Clean Energy**

*(U.S. Secretary of Energy signs Green Olympic Protocol in Beijing)*

The Department of Energy issued a press release January 12 announcing that Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham, China's Science and Technology Minister, and Beijing's Vice Mayor had all signed into effect a protocol focused on disseminating clean energy technologies in Beijing for the 2008 Olympic Games.

The release states the original Statement of Intent was signed between the U.S. Department of Energy and China in September, 2002; the signing ceremony in Beijing on January 12 turned the Green Olympic Protocol into a legally binding international agreement.

Following is the text of the press release:

(begin text)

January 12, 2004

Energy Secretary Abraham, Beijing Energy Minister Sign Green Olympic Protocol

BEIJING, CHINA - Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham joined China's Science and Technology Minister Xu and Beijing's Vice Mayor Fan today to sign the Green Olympic Protocol for Beijing's 2008 Olympic Games.

Secretary Abraham was in Beijing for a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the first energy efficient building demonstration project in Beijing that will lead to more widespread use of clean energy technologies in Beijing, particularly for the 2008 Olympic Games, and throughout China.

"This energy efficient building in Beijing demonstrates how the U.S. and China can work together to promote clean energy solutions," Secretary Abraham said. "The United States and China face similar challenges and exciting opportunities in the energy sector. I hope that the Green Olympic Protocol for Beijing's 2008 Olympic Games we are signing today will further deepen our joint efforts to improve Beijing's air quality and environment."

The United States and China are the two largest energy consumers in the world and energy security

and environment protection are important priorities for both countries.

The United States and China have established 11 teams to move forward on Green Olympics cooperation since a Statement of Intent was signed between the Department of Energy and China in September, 2002. Two Joint Working Group Meetings were also successfully held in Beijing in 2002 and 2003 and have developed proposals for cooperation. The protocol signed today will transform the Statement of Intent into a legally binding international agreement.

(end text)

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### **Transcript: White House Press Briefing, January 12, 2004**

*(Bush schedule in Monterrey/Special Summit of the Americas, meeting with Mexico's President Fox, book by former Treasury Secretary O'Neill)*

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan briefed reporters on Air Force One as they accompanied President Bush to a Special Summit of the Americas in Monterrey, Mexico.

Following is a transcript of the briefing:

(begin transcript)

THE WHITE HOUSE

Office of the Press Secretary (Monterrey, Mexico)  
January 12, 2004

PRESS GAGGLE WITH SCOTT McCLELLAN

Aboard Air Force One En Route Monterrey, Mexico  
12:03 P.M. (Local)

MR. McCLELLAN: All right, good morning, everybody. I hope everybody is looking forward to traveling to Monterrey today. The President had his

usual briefings this morning before departing the ranch. Right now he is participating in a briefing on the Special Summit of the Americas with others including Dr. Rice and Secretary of State Powell.

And then, when we arrive in Monterrey this afternoon, the President will participate in a bilateral meeting with President Fox, and they will participate in a press availability afterwards. Then the President will participate in a brief meeting with the Caribbean leaders -- we'll have a photo release from that. It's really pretty much just a photo opportunity with those leaders.

Then the President has a bilateral meeting with President Lagos of Chile later this afternoon, and we will have pool at the bottom for that coverage. Then he will go over and participate in a greeting to the United States Mission in Monterrey. Then he will participate in the inauguration ceremony of the Special Summit of the Americas, before beginning the first plenary session, which today will focus on economic growth and reducing poverty by creating opportunity for all.

Following that plenary session, the President will participate in a bilateral meeting with President Lula of Brazil. That will be pool at the bottom. And then this evening he participates in a dinner being hosted by President Fox of Mexico. And that's the general schedule for today.

Let me just kind of go back over the goals of the Special Summit of the Americas. The Special Summit of the Americas will focus on creating opportunity for all by strengthening democracy and promoting greater prosperity. We will be working with other nations in the hemisphere to look at ways to sustain economic growth, reduce poverty, invest in people through health and education, strengthen democratic institutions, and encourage greater governmental transparency in the fight against corruption in our hemisphere. So we'll be looking to build a consensus on specific commitments to achieve measurable progress in our collective neighborhood.

As I said, first we need to promote growth and reduce poverty by creating jobs. We need to work together to significantly reduce the time required to

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start a business. We need to expand access to credit by small and medium-size businesses. As you've heard the President repeatedly say, small business is the backbone of economic growth. We should also work together to lower the cost of remittance transfers, so that people can more easily send money back home to their families and local communities.

We need to -- secondly, we need to work to invest in people. Each country has to work to improve health and education if we're going to improve the quality of life in the hemisphere. When it comes to education, we'll be focusing on accountability. You've heard the President often talk about the importance of measuring progress so that we know where we need to improve. And on health, there's nothing more important than working together to combat HIV/AIDS, by expanding prevention programs and providing treatment for more people.

And finally, we will work together to increase accountability and reduce corruption. Corruption remains an impediment, an obstacle to economic growth and to strengthening democracy and improving hemispheric security. And so we believe governments need to set high standards to be more transparent and accountable to the people. And we will work to have a strong commitment at this summit to fight corruption together.

And I would just say that the United States has committed hundreds of millions of dollars to the summit agenda, and worked hard at achieving our common summit goals, which are strengthening democracy, creating prosperity and realizing the full potential of humans. This summit represents an important next step towards realization of this shared hemispheric vision.

So the President looks forward to spending today and tomorrow in Monterrey participating in these bilateral meetings and continuing to build on the progress we're making in this hemisphere on those issues.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

**Transcript: State Department Noon Briefing,  
January 12, 2004**

*(Iraq, Iran, Russia, Venezuela, North Korea, Syria/Israel, Taiwan/China,  
Egypt, Libya, Saudi Arabia, Uzbekistan)*

Deputy State Department Spokesman Adam Ereli  
briefed the media January 12.

Following is the transcript of the State Department  
briefing:

(begin transcript)

U.S. Department of State  
Daily Press Briefing Index  
Monday, January 12, 2004  
1:05 p.m. EST

BRIEFER: J. Adam Ereli, Deputy Spokesman

**IRAQ**

- Query on Iraq War
- January 19th U.N. Meeting/U.S. Representation

**IRAN**

- Comment on Electoral Process
- Iran's Impact on Region

**RUSSIA**

- Military Equipment Sales to Iraq

**VENEZUELA**

- Recall Referendum and Constitutional Process
- Status of Relations with United States

**NORTH KOREA**

- Readout on Discussions by Unofficial U.S.  
Delegation
- U.S. Visit by Chinese Officials/Six-Party Talks

**SYRIA/ISRAEL**

- Israeli Invitation for Visit by President Assad

**TAIWAN/CHINA**

- U.S. Position on Cross-Strait Referenda

**EGYPT**

- Assistant Secretary Burns' Travel to Cairo
- U.S. Call for Democratization

**LIBYA**

- Status of U.S. Dialogue with Libya/Diplomatic  
Relations
- Verification on the Elimination of WMD

**SAUDI ARABIA**

- New Public Affairs Channel on the Air

**UZBEKISTAN**

- New Draft of Section 568 in Foreign Operations  
Bill
- Human Rights Record

**Full transcript is available at**

**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

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**Transcript: State Department Daily Briefing,  
January 9, 2004**

*(China/Hong Kong, Haiti, Iran, Israel/Palestinians, United Kingdom, North  
Korea, China/Taiwan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Morocco, China, Singapore)*

State Department Spokesman Richard Boucher  
conducted the department's daily press briefing  
January 9. Following is the State Department  
transcript:

(begin transcript)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
DAILY PRESS BRIEFING  
FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 2004

BRIEFER: Richard Boucher, Spokesman

**CHINA/HONG KONG**

- Democracy through Electoral Reform &  
Universal Suffrage in Hong Kong

**HAITI**

- January 7 Attacks on Political Demonstration in  
Port au Prince
- Efforts to Resolve Issues Politically and through  
Dialogue

**IRAN**

- Iran's Commitments to the International  
Community/U.S. Policy on Engaging Iran on  
Specific Areas of Concern
- Issue of Iran's Support of Terrorist  
Organizations/Transit through Syria

-- Disaster Assistance Relief Teams/High Level U.S. Delegation  
ISRAEL/PALESTINIANS  
-- Roadmap to Peace/Two-State Solution  
UNITED KINGDOM  
-- Briefing by Ambassador Prosper on Detainees at Guantanamo Bay  
-- Discussions Regarding Repatriation of Guantanamo Bay Detainees  
NORTH KOREA  
-- Ongoing Discussions Regarding Six-Party Talks  
-- Elimination of Nuclear Program/Security Assurances  
CHINA/TAIWAN  
-- U.S.-Taiwan Channels of Communication  
IRAQ  
-- Ambassador Negroponte's January 9 Meeting with U.N. Secretary General  
-- Role of United Nations  
-- January 19 Meeting/Dialogue between U.N. Secretary General and Iraqi Governing Council  
-- Organization & Implementation of Political System/November 15 Plan  
SAUDI ARABIA  
-- Swearing In of New Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Oberwetter  
DEPARTMENT  
-- U.S. Views on Freedom of Expression/Right for Journalists to Report  
-- U.S. Policy on Latin America  
MOROCCO  
-- Readout of Visit of Moroccan Prime Minister to the State Department  
CHINA  
-- Chinese New Year Celebrations  
SINGAPORE  
-- Under Secretary Bolton Travel

MR. BOUCHER: Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. If I can, I'd like to mention two statements that we will be putting out in more detail in writing. The first has to do with recent developments in Hong Kong, and the United States is expressing its strong support for democracy through electoral reform and universal suffrage in Hong Kong.

We believe these will advance economic and social development and are essential to Hong Kong's prosperity and stability within the "one country, two systems" framework.

There's a statement on that, and second of all, there's a statement on January 7th attacks on a political demonstration in Haiti. We're condemning the actions of the Haitian Government in response to the political demonstrations that occurred January 7th in Port au Prince.

Police officers at these -- some police officers at these demonstrations collaborated with heavily armed, hired gangs to attack the demonstrators. We believe these actions contradict the government's own declaration that it seeks compromise and we call on the government to end immediately its efforts to suppress peaceful dissent, so there's a more extensive statement on that available after the briefing, as well.

**Full transcript is available at**  
**<http://www.usemb.se/wireless/100/index.htm>**

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### **Byliner: Powell Says the Summit of the Americas Will Make Life Better**

*(Op-ed column by U.S. Secretary of State)*

(This byliner by U.S. Secretary of State Colin L. Powell first appeared in the Dallas Morning News January 12, 2004, and is in the public domain. No republication restrictions.)

(begin byliner)

Summit of the Americas Will Make Life Better  
By Colin L. Powell

At the Quebec Summit of the Americas in 2001, the democratically elected leaders of the Western Hemisphere pledged "to strengthen representative democracy, promote good governance and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms."

They also determined to "create greater prosperity and expand economic opportunities while fostering social justice and the realization of human potential."



Since then, our governments have been working together to meet those goals, and we have made progress. But we have much more to do.

Many countries have faced severe economic, political or social crises in recent years. Poverty remains unacceptably high and growth unacceptably low in too many places. Democratic institutions in much of the hemisphere remain weak and in need of reform.

To continue the work begun in Quebec, President Bush and his fellow leaders of the Americas are meeting this week in Monterrey, Mexico. The Monterrey summit's agenda includes stimulating economic growth, promoting good governance, fighting corruption and investing in people, especially in education and health.

The summit's overarching aim is to reinvigorate our collaboration by setting practical goals that rapidly can improve the daily lives of people in the region.

To encourage broad-based growth, we will help small businessmen, farmers and working families.

Small and medium-sized businesses account for 80 percent of the economic activity in Latin America and the Caribbean and generate 60 percent of all jobs. We seek to reduce or remove altogether the obstacles to starting a small business and to increase the availability of capital for business start-ups and expansions.

We will aid small farmers by ensuring they have clear legal title to their land and greater access to credit based on that equity. We will make the sending of remittances from those working abroad both easier and less expensive. We also will bring financial services to working families. In short, our aim is to make the free-market system work fairly for all of the region's citizens.

At the summit, we also will press for agreement to improve the region's schools and health care systems. Even the best school systems in Latin America and the Caribbean rank in the bottom quarter in worldwide tests. That is unacceptable.

Our children need a high-quality education to succeed in a 21st-century economy. If we don't find

the resources to invest in that education today, we will pay a far higher toll in lost earnings and lower living standards tomorrow. As a first step, we will urge our partners to draft well-defined educational standards and to institute regular testing to monitor progress.

Finally, we can't ignore the public health challenge that is hard upon us. HIV/AIDS is a major threat in the Americas today, with nearly 3 million people in the region already infected.

Mr. Bush's \$15 billion Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and other U.S. assistance will bolster the region's health care systems. But just as important, we will urge our partners to undertake a comprehensive program to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, because our help with resources alone can't do the job.

We want all the people of the Americas to grow together in peace and freedom. To achieve that, it isn't enough that politicians and diplomats pledge and pontificate. The Monterrey summit must create real opportunities for people to improve their lives. That ultimately is the test that the Summit of the Americas must pass, and we are doing all we can to ensure it does so.

(Colin L. Powell is the U.S. Secretary of State.)

(end byliner)

(Distributed by the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://usinfo.state.gov>)

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### **Text: U.N. Agency Urges Countries to Adopt Strong Meat Safety Measures**

*(Better surveillance would help prevent spread of BSE, FAO says)*

The United States' discovery in December of a single case of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) highlights the need for countries to strengthen their systems for preventing and controlling the spread of the disease, according to



the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO).

More surveillance and testing will reassure consumers around the world that the meat they purchase is safe, the agency said in a January 12 press release. Considering the potential health and economic damage if BSE spreads, testing can be viewed as cost-effective, it said.

Recommended measures include banning the use of meat and bone-meal livestock feed and removing during slaughter specified risk materials (SRMs) from cattle older than 30 months. Another measure would be prohibiting the use of meat that has been mechanically removed from carcasses, the release said. SRMs include the brain, spinal cord and parts of the intestine.

"In many countries, BSE controls are still not sufficient and many countries are not applying the recommended measures properly. There is also a considerable risk of further introducing infectious materials, given the global trade in animal feed and animal products," the release said

In 2003 the United States tested at slaughter approximately 20,000 head of cattle, more than recommended by the Paris-based Office International des Epizooties (OIE), also known as the World Organization for Animal Health. The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) has announced several additional safeguards to bolster the U.S. protections against BSE.

FAO said it is providing "good practices" training in several countries to meat inspectors, laboratory personnel, and others involved in the meat and feed industries.

Following is the text of FAO's press release:

(begin text)

BSE controls in many countries are still not sufficient

FAO urges countries to strictly apply preventive measures

12 January 2004, Rome -- The discovery of the first case of BSE (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad-cow disease) in the United States in December 2003 highlights the need for countries to strengthen their BSE control measures, FAO said in a statement issued today.

"When it comes to prevention, the situation is still confused," FAO said. To reassure consumers will require more than the minimum action to be taken by countries. It will require better controls and more surveillance and testing.

In many countries, BSE controls are still not sufficient and many countries are not applying the recommended measures properly. There is also a considerable risk of further introducing infectious materials, given the global trade in animal feed and animal products.

FAO said that no country can claim to be BSE-free, unless this claim is validated through internationally recognized survey methods.

#### Preventive measures

FAO urged governments and industry to carry out a proper risk assessment and to keep risk animals and materials out of the food chain and to strictly apply the following preventive measures:

- ban the feeding of meat-and-bone-meal to farm animals, at least to ruminants;
- strictly avoid cross contamination in feed mills;
- remove and destroy SRMs (Specified Risk Materials: brain and spinal cord, etc.) from cattle over 30 months;
- ensure safe practices in the rendering industry, i.e. treatment of the material at 133 degrees C [Celsius under] 3-bar pressure for 20 minutes;
- apply active surveillance measures within the cattle population and accurate identification of animals and traceability throughout production, processing and marketing;
- ban the use of mechanically removed meat.

With these control measures in place, especially with the feed ban and the removal of SRMs, the risk of BSE infective material being present in the food chain is extremely low, FAO said.

The Office International des Epizooties (OIE) recommends first testing cattle that show BSE symptoms and testing one in 10,000 to one in 100,000 of the cattle population over 30 months. On this basis, Australia tested about 400 animals per year, Canada about 3,000 and the U.S. about 20,000 animals, a higher number than suggested by the OIE.

Testing must be targeted and effective, FAO said. Additional tests should be carried out on all animals that have died or are killed other than by routine slaughter.

#### Reassuring consumers

If BSE is known to be present and control measures have not yet been strictly applied, a wider testing programme is called for, FAO said. Testing of all slaughter cattle over 30 months is a measure to enhance consumer confidence.

To reassure its consumers and to find as many BSE cases as possible, the European Union tested over 9 million animals in 2002/3, with France and Germany testing nearly 3 million each. Switzerland tested 170,000 animals and Japan tested virtually every cow (500,000).

Testing costs are estimated at around \$50 per animal. Considering the potential damage of BSE outbreaks to human health and meat markets, testing can be considered cost-effective, FAO said.

If the control measures in the feed, meat and rendering industries are in place and implemented effectively, the risks of infective material in the food chain are very low, even in countries where the disease is present.

To help countries to implement stricter controls, FAO is carrying out training projects in several countries and facilitating cooperation between Switzerland, which has successfully dealt with the BSE crisis, and countries in Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America.

This training project targets not only inspectors and laboratory personnel but also those involved in the feed and meat industries, so that they are trained in "good practices" which minimize the risks throughout the food chain.

(end text)

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